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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Ontario Historical Society

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In presenting the report of the Niagara Historical Society, we have to record a year of steady progress. Each year seems to be marked by some special feature of growth. While our last report chronicled the placing of seven markers for historic spots, this year has been marked by the greater number of papers read at our meetings, and the publication of two historical pamphlets, instead of the one usually published. Nos. 9 and 10 have been issued since our last report, and when it is remembered that we are in the eighth year of our existence, it may be said that the issue of ten publications is no mean record.

Seven meetings were held from October to May, at which the following papers were read: (1) "A Wife's Devotion, or a Niagara Heroine of 1837," by the President; (2) "Value of an Historical Room," by Rev. J. C. Garrett; (3) "The Vicissitudes of the Niagara Public Library for Fifty Years," by the President; (4) "Two Days in Quebec in 1838, and a Day at the Falls on the Occasion of the King's Visit in 1860,' by Wm. Kirby, F.R.S.C. (all original papers), and (5) A reading was given by Miss Manning from the Archives, the Trip of Mr. Hannington in helping to lay out a section of the C.P.R. railway.

The number of members has slightly increased, being now over fifty, more than half of whom are non-resident.

We have published during the year No. 9, by Col. E. Cruikshank, "Campaigns of 1812-14," containing part of the diary of Capt. W. H. Merritt, Col. Wm. Clans,

Col. Elliot, and Capt. Norton; and No. 10, by the President, "Inscriptions and Graves in the Niagara Peninsula."

During the summer an important event occurred. By permission of the Minister of Education a visit of inspection was paid to our historical room by Mr. David Boyle, Supt. of the Provincial Museum, who gave many valuable hints and much help in classification. His report speaks of the great value of our collection, and the impossibility, were it destroyed, of duplicating many of the articles, emphasizing strongly the necessity of a good building, fireproof and easily accessible, for a collection which is now of provincial value. If the Ontario Historical Society, or any individual, can help us to obtain this desirable building we shall be duly grateful.

On the 17th of September a number of us visited the graveyards of the town, as well as Butler's, for the purpose of decorating the graves, as has been our yearly custom since our organization.

An historical item has appeared at intervals in our local paper always acknowledging additions to our collection. The room is open weekly, and during the time of summer visitors, sometimes daily. Several interesting photographs of groups of articles in our room were taken by Mr. Walker, accompanied by his friend Mr. Sherk, of Toronto.

Many letters are received asking for information which has often been given from our papers, documents, etc.

While last year seven markers were placed, a tablet this year was placed on the Court House built for the united Counties of Lincoln, Welland and Haldimand in 1847. Many articles have been added to our room, so that it is now so crowded that any proper arrangement is impossible.

We have distributed about six hundred of our publications during the year. We exchange with twenty Societies, etc., although we must say that very few of them are in Ontario. A map has been copied from the Archives of Ottawa, showing the military reserves here of 1818 and 1835, and a book with twenty-six maps of military reserves from Fort Erie to Niagara has been presented. General Brock's cocked hat has again been placed in our charge, and though our collection mostly relates to Niagara, contributions have been received from places as distant as Great Britain, Savannah, Manitoba, British Columbia and South Africa. While we should like to be able to record the accomplishment of much more, we still feel that the seven years of our existence have not been lived in vain.

In closing we would ask the attention of the Ontario Historical Society to the condition of part of the military reserves in Niagara. While Queenston Heights, Brock's Monument, and Fort Erie have been placed in the hands of the Niagara Falls Park Commissioners for beautifying and preservation, we feel that something of the same plan is necessary with regard to Fort George, Navy Hall and Fort Mississagua, where soldiers of the King lie buried, where the first Parliament was held, and the slave made free—all lie neglected and falling to decay. Other buildings have been burned down, notably the Military Hospital and Commandant's house, Navy Hall Inn destroyed, powder magazine in ruins, log buildings of Fort Mississagua removed, Navy Hall falling to pieces. It is earnestly hoped that all will unite to preserve what we have left of historic interest in ground drenched with the blood of the heroes of the past, who so nobly stood for King and country.

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Editor - - - - - - -	Frank Hunt, Esq.

Council.

Mrs. Gustin, Mrs. Cormack, Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Oakes, Mr. Coyne, Mr. McKay, Mr. Stewart.

This being the centennial year of the Talbot Settlement, the members have been chiefly engaged in preparing for the celebration, which has just been held in St. Thomas, May 21st to 25th inclusive.

The chief event of the 21st of May, the day Colonel Talbot, the founder of the settlement, landed at Port Talbot was a banquet held at the Grand Central Hotel, under the auspices of the Institute to which all members of the Dominion and Provincial Parliaments, who represent any part of the original settlement, wardens of counties and Mayors of cities and towns within the same area were invited, as well as the Councils of the County of Elgin and City of St. Thomas, and other guests. It was voted by all present one of the most enjoyable social functions ever given in the city.

Subsequent days were devoted to the opening of the new Collegiate Institute, and the armoury, pioneer and military processions, old boys' gathering, band concerts, illuminations, etc., and the erection of a cairn, composed of stones representing each of the twenty-eight townships embraced in the original settlement, which was placed in position by the Reeves and engraved with the names of the townships. This cairn is intended to form a permanent historical feature in the recently acquired Municipal Park of this city. On the intervening Sunday, sermons appropriate to the occasion were preached in all the churches. About 1,000 militia from Toronto, Chatham and St. Thomas took part in the celebration.

The Women's Branch has been active as ever, and planned a celebration in connection with the Centennial Demonstration. They will present their own report.

W. H. Murch, *Secretary.*

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE ELGIN AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE, ST. THOMAS.

Officers.

President - - - - -	Mrs. J. H. Wilson.
1st Vice-President - - -	Mrs. J. H. Coyne.
2nd Vice-President - - -	Mrs. C. O. Ermatinger.
3rd Vice-President - - -	Mrs. D. O'Shea.
Treasurer - - - - -	Mrs. E. H. Caughell.
Assistant Treasurer - - -	Miss F. McLachlin.
Secretary - - - - -	Mrs. S. Silcox.
Corresponding Secretary - -	Mrs. E. W. Gustin.
Reporting Secretary - - -	Miss L. Wegg.
Curator - - - - -	Mrs. St. Thomas Smith.

The first effort of our organization was to obtain suitable rooms in which to hold our meetings. The first meeting held in them was a business meeting, at which due acknowledgment was given for the assistance rendered in the work.

Beginning the 31st of October meetings were held the last Friday of each month, upon which occasions readings and recitations on Canadian subjects were rendered, and during the course of the year the following original papers were read: "Paper on Nova Scotia," by Mrs. Quance; "The King's Visit to Canada in 1860," by Miss Paul; "The Coronation Parade," by Mrs. M. A. Gilbert; "Governor Simcoe," by Mrs. J. H. Wilson; "Coming of the U. E. Loyalists," by Mrs. Warner; "James Thomas Curtiss, a Pioneer Sketch," by Miss Wegg; "Madeleine Verchères," by Miss Claris; "Life of Sir Isaac Brock," by Mrs. J. P. Finlay; "Presbyterian Church of St. Thomas," by Miss McAdam; Presentation Address with gift of statuette, by Mrs. St. Thomas Smith; "The Township of Yarmouth," by Mrs. Griffin; "The Old Abbot Place," by Mrs. Gerrard; "Raids of the War of 1812," by Mrs. Coyne; "The Old Town Hall," by Mrs Gustin; "The History of the Methodist Church in St. Thomas," by Miss Murch, whose recent death abroad we so deeply deplore.

At the Annual Meeting in April, 1903, it was decided to postpone the election of officers until after the Centennial celebration, and in future to hold it in June.

We cannot close without special reference to the part we took in connection with the Centennial Celebration. Our Committees had charge of the Log Cabin, a reproduction of pioneer life which was visited by over 700 people—also of the May Pole Dance, the Spinning and Weaving, and the Tea for all ladies of the settlement over eighty years of age, which afforded much pleasure to the 35 participants. The increase from 67 to 107 members in good standing shows a gratifying interest on the part of the public in our work, which is due in a very great measure to the untiring efforts of our energetic President.

The Treasurer's report as read at our last meeting indicates that our finances are in a satisfactory condition.

A. Silcox, *Secretary.*

THE WENTWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, HAMILTON.

Hon. President - - - -	F. W. Fearman.
President - - - - -	Chas. Lemon.
1st Vice-President - - -	H. H. Robertson.
2nd Vice-President - - -	Rev. Canon E. M. Bland.
Secretary-Treasurer - - -	Justus A. Griffin.
Corresponding-Secretary - -	Mrs. C. Fessenden.

Executive Council.

S. F. Lazier, K.C., J. W. Jones, LL.B., C. R. McCullough, T. W. Lester, Dr. A. Dickson, Mrs. Edward Martin, J. G. Y. Burkholder, H. C. Baker, E. C. Murton, Mrs. M. E. Rose-Holden and Mrs. R. G. Sutherland.

The Society has endeavored during the past year to arouse in the public a greater interest in historical subjects; has succeeded in finding some valuable documents; and has had papers read regarding the discoveries made. It intends in the near future to publish the more interesting of the papers that have come into its possession. One of the letters was written at Niagara, July 2, 1812, by a militia sergeant from the head of the lake.

On November 11, 1902, Rev. Canon Bull gave an address and exhibited the Orderly Book of Col. Gourlay when he was in command of a regiment of Gore Militia in 1837-38; this book was kept by the adjutant, Capt. Lewis, whose home was in the old "Lewis Home" on the battlefield of Stoney Creek. Canon Bull also showed the Letter Book of Commander Lucas, of H. M. S. "Arrogant," covering a number of years ending with 1796, and containing many interesting facts.

On March 25 Justus A. Griffin read a paper relating to the preservation and showing the authenticity of two militia rolls of 1812, and other papers and letters of that period which recently came into the possession of the Society.

WOMEN'S CANADIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TORONTO.

ORGANIZED NOVEMBER 19TH, 1895.
INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 14TH, 1896.

Honorary President - -	Mrs. Mortimer Clark.
Past Presidents - - -	Mrs. S. A. Curzon (deceased). Lady Edgar.
President - - - -	Mrs. Forsyth Grant.
1st Vice-President - -	Mrs. J. A. Paterson.
2nd Vice-President - -	Mrs. Willoughby Cummings.
Treasurer - - - -	Mrs. C. D. Cory, 21 Prince Arthur Ave.
Corresponding Secretary -	Miss Jean Graham. 22 St. Mary Street.
Recording Secretary - -	Miss Mabel Cory.

Executive Committee.

Mesdames Leigh and Bain, Misses Beard, Mickle, Curzon and Ellerby.

The following papers have been read: "Indian Summer," by Miss Sara Mickle; "The Fall of Acadie," by Miss E. Yates Farmer; "Scenes of Coronation Week," by Miss M. A. Fitz-Gibbon; "Laying the Foundation of Ontario," by Mr. C. C. James; "Lachine," by Miss Blanche Macdonell; "The Canadian Teachers at Winchester," by Mrs. S. G. Wood.

The Memorial Hall Fund now amounts to $2,676, and it is hoped to add materially to it during the coming year.

Miss M. A. FitzGibbon, who found it impossible to take the office of Secretary, was greatly missed, as her enthusiastic and efficient support has been a great benefit to the Society, of which, indeed, she was one of the founders.

Fifteen members have been added to our list during the year.

WOMEN'S WENTWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, HAMILTON.

Officers.

President	Mrs. John Calder.
1st Vice-President	Mrs. John S. Hendrie.
2nd Vice-President	Mrs. R. R. Waddell.
3rd Vice-President	Mrs. J. M. Gibson.
4th Vice-President	Mrs. John Crerar.
Recording Secretary	Miss Emily Colquhoun
Corresponding Secretary	Miss Minnie Jean Nisbet.
Treasurer	Mrs. Wm. F. Montague.

We have pleasure in reporting a pleasant and prosperous year. We have had a large increase in our membership, and close the year with a balance of money on hand and no liabilities, except the mortgage on the Battlefield, which we expect to reduce during the summer.

It was necessary to appoint two new trustees for the Battlefield property at Stony Creek to succeed Senator A. T. Wood and Mr. John Calder, who died during the past year.

Hon. J. M. Gibson and Mr. Thos. W. Watkins were selected by the Society, and approved by Mr. William Hendrie, the sole surviving trustee, and they have accepted the office.

We had the honor of entertaining the Governor-General, Lady Minto, Lady Eileen Eliot, and the other members of the vice-regal party at the Battlefield on May 15th.

PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Officers.

Hon. President	His Honor Judge Weller.
President	Lieut.-Col. H. C. Rogers.
Vice-Presidents	Richard Hall, J. B. McWilliams, and Mrs. Birdsall.
Secretary	T. A. S. Hay.
Treasurer	Mrs. Wilson.

Executive Committee.

Lieut.-Col. Edwards, D. Spence, E. J. Tokes, Rev. J. C. Davidson, E. Elcome, J. Coyle Brown and F. J. Jamison.

Museum Board.

Dr. Burnham, H. T. Strickland and T. A. S. Hay.

I beg to report as follows concerning the Peterborough Historical Society, whose annual meeting was held on October 23rd, 1902 :

At that meeting the annual address of the President, and report of the Secretary, and financial statement of the Treasurer were presented.

In the President's address he gave an outline of the meeting of the Ontario Historical Society, which had been held in June, jointly between Peterborough and Lindsay, and hoped that the interest then shown by local members and others, in the work of the Society would be continued, it had given the officers and members much pleasure to have an opportunity of meeting and entertaining the delegates of that body.

During the past season the local society had held three meetings, at which papers were read.

The Society has fifty members on the roll at present, of which about twenty-five might be considered active members.

Although few meetings were held during the season, the interests of the Society have been well looked after by the Executive Committee and the Museum Board. Many valuable additions have been made to the Museum, consisting of documents, pictures, and photographs, etc., and the Executive have procured the stories of some of the oldest settlers in the county and town, which will be compiled into a history.

The delegates to represent the Society at the annual meeting in June, 1903, at St. Thomas, are Lieut.-Col. Edwards and Hampden Burnham, Esq.

T. A. S. Hay, *Secretary.*

OXFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Officers.

President	T. Hart.
1st Vice-President	A. H. Wilson.
2nd Vice-President	J. W. Whealy.
Secretary-Treasurer	W. Munro.
Editor	G. R. Pattullo.

Council.

T. H. Park, F. R. Ball, G. R. Pattullo, W. Munro and J. Cameron.

Owing to our Society being precluded from meeting in the Court House very few meetings were held in 1902, so no report was made. The officers, however, remain the same as last year, and as you have that list I need not send it again.

NORFOLK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Officers.

President	Judge Robb.
Secretary-Treasurer	Dr. J. J. Wadsworth.
Curator	Henry Johnson.

Councillors.

H. B. Donly and Rev. R. Hicks.

During the year 1902-03 only four well-attended meetings were held, the others being failures, owing largely to the active participation of many of the members in the Provincial elections and meetings in connection therewith. As was remarked by one of three who met at the Council Chamber in April, "the members of our Society seem more bent this year on making history than on recording it."

During the year five new members were elected, and four members removed from the county. One aged and respected member died, Mr. George Jackson, of Simcoe. Our roll at present includes 78 members.

A number of valuable records have come into the possession of the Society, and have been filed with the Curator in the Registry Office. They include—"On the East End Lighthouse," from Mr. Clarence Beaupre; "Long Point Reformer," Dec. 17, 1854, from Mr. H. B. Donly; "Militia Documents," 1839, from Dr. McInnes; "Life and Career of Hugh P. McCall," by the late F. L. Walsh.

Members contributed the following original papers, all of which were read at the

meetings of the Society during 1902. "Character Sketches," by Dr. Annie Backus; "Turkey Point and Ryerson Island," once Townships, by H. Johnson; "Traces of the Indian Occupation of Charlotteville," by T. Sinclair; "The Grand River Reservation," by H. Johnson; "The First Survey of Townsend," by H. Johnson; "History of the Baptist Church in Simcoe," by W. W. Pegg; "Recollections of John Carrow," by H. F. Cook; "History of Port Ryerse," by G. J. Ryerse.

Mr. Robert Osborne exhibited relics from Turkey Point and other parts of Norfolk.

During the year the Curator, Mr. H. Johnson, has continued the very important work of arranging and cataloguing the documents now accumulated in large numbers in the custody of the Society, and the Royal Society of Canada has expressed a desire to obtain a copy of the catalogue and of the papers published by our Society. We hope to be able to comply with their request in some measure.

The County Council granted to the Society the sum of $25 for the furtherance of its work.

A number of books and maps were donated to the Society by the Dominion Government through Hon. Col. Tisdale.

In conclusion, we should feel grateful to the *Simcoe Reformer* and the *British Canadian* for the liberal manner in which they have published the papers and proceedings of our body.

J. J. WADSWORTH, *Secretary.*

THE BELLEVILLE AND BAY OF QUINTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Officers.

President	Mrs. J. G. Terrill.
1st Vice-President	J. F. Jeffers.
2nd Vice-President	Miss Chandler.
Treasurer	Mrs. May.
Recording Secretary	Mrs. L. W. Yeomans.
Corresponding Secretary	A. McGinnis.

Executive Committee.

Mrs. W. W. Pope, Mrs. J. W. Johnson, Col. W. N. Ponton, and Major S. Stewart.

We have had but three meetings during the past year, and business of only a routine nature was transacted.

LAMBTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Officers.

Hon. President - - -	Hon. Alexander Vidal.
President - - - -	Frederic C. Watson.
Vice-Presidents - - -	Henry Ingram and Joseph Savoy.
Secretary - - - -	Joshua Adams.
Treasurer - - - -	Daniel McCart.

I regret to report that, by reason of circumstances beyond our control, no work was done by this Society worthy of report during the past year, but we expect to accomplish some of the objects of the Society during the current year.

At the annual meeting the Secretary was appointed Delegate to the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society, to be held at St. Thomas.

We have a membership of 45, and hope to increase the number during the year.

JOSHUA ADAMS, *Secretary.*

COUNTY OF VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Officers.

Hon. President - -	His Honor Judge Dean, M.A., LL.D.
President - - -	W. H. Stevens, B.A.
1st Vice-President - -	C. D. Barr.
2nd Vice-President -	W. F. O'Boyle.
Secretary - - -	Miss E. G. Flavelle, B.A.
Assistant Secretary -	Miss M. L. Taylor.
Treasurer - - -	I. E. Weldon.

Executive Committee.

W. L. Herriman, M.D.; V. C. Cornwall, M.D; E. A. Hardy, B.A.; H. J. Lytle, R. J. McLaughlin, D. R. Anderson, M. M. Boyd.

Our work this year has been very discouraging. Our only progress has been in gathering pamphlets and old documents. Our library, too, has grown, but with these exceptions we have nothing to show for our year's work.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Officers.

Hon. President	Sir John Carling.
President	Dr. Campbell.
Vice-Presidents	Miss Priddis, James Egan.
Corresponding Secretary	Dr. English.
Curator	Dr. Wolverton.
Treasurer	Henry Macklin.
Secretary	Mrs. Gahan.

At every meeting interesting papers have been read, dealing chiefly with the early days of London, or events of historical interest. The audiences, while not large, have been most appreciative, and a growing interest in the work of the Society can be noticed. Very few young people, however, seem attracted, a state of things which we would gladly see changed, if any other Society could suggest means whereby the co-operation of our future citizens can be secured. Vocal and instrumental music, contributed chiefly by the ladies of the city, has enlivened the programmes.

Among the papers which have been read were those by the Hon. Freeman Talbot, of Assiniboia, formerly of London, Mr. Thos. Kent, and Mrs. Root, and Dr. Stevenson vividly described the old way of fighting fires by means of the bucket brigade, exhibiting one of the buckets. Dr. Wolverton contributed two papers, one on the Battle of Kent, showing various relics connected with it, and the other on the Indians of the United States and their struggles with the colonists, referring particularly to Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet. Our President also gave us two papers, one on "Early London," and the other on "Robert Fleming Gourlay, the first Ontario politician." We had also the pleasure of hearing the most interesting lecture on "Early Explorations in Western Ontario," by Mr. Jas. H. Coyne, of St. Thomas, whose patient research, enthusiastic patriotism, and pleasing delivery are familiar to all, and honored by all. Mr. Poole, of Comber, gave a graphic and minute account of the Battle of Longwood (near Delaware), and of the circumstances leading to it, basing his account on authentic documentary evidence which he had taken great pains to collect. The only paper of a literary character was furnished by Dr. Tamblyn, of the Western University, who spoke on the poems of Dr. Drummond, of Montreal, illustrating his remarks by readings from the poems, which were much appreciated.

The Curator, Dr. Wolverton, has been empowered to have the various papers type-written and preserved.

Our finances are in a satisfactory condition, the paid-up members this year numbering 36—21 ladies, 15 gentlemen.

WOMEN'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BOWMANVILLE.

Officers.

President - - - -	Miss Moffatt.
Vice-Presidents - - -	Miss Fairbairn and Miss Hillier.
Secretary - - - -	Miss Margaret Allen.
Treasurer - - - -	Mrs. Lestock Reid.

Executive.

Miss Reid, Miss Allen, Miss McLaughlin, Miss Winifred Beith, Miss Bleakley.

Membership, 29 ; average attendance, 18.

The close of the second year of the Women's Historical Society of Bowmanville leaves us greatly encouraged for the future. Though early in this session we sustained an irreparable loss in the death of our late Vice-President, Mrs. D. B. Simpson, and while some eight of our members were absent the entire winter, yet we may record regular attendance for those who were in town, greater interest in the work, deeper study in the preparation of the papers, and a better understanding of the aims of the Society.

The following papers were read at the different meetings : "Cardinal Richelieu," Miss M. Reid ; "Hundred Associates," Miss W. Beith ; "Indian Customs and Beliefs," Mrs. Lestock Reid ; "The Mohawks," Miss Allen ; "Life of Loyola," Miss Hillier ; "Jesuits in France," Miss Fairbairn ; "Founding of the Jesuit Order in New France," Miss Beatrice Tamblyn ; "De La Salle," Miss M. Bogue ; "Royal Government," Miss Hilda Reid ; "Louis XIV," Miss Muriel Reid ; "Frontenac's First Administration," Miss Bleakley ; "Madame de Frontenac," Mrs. Turnbull ; "Frontenac's Second Administration," Miss Armour ; "Acadian Struggle," Miss Bertha Tamblyn ; "Queen Anne," Miss Margaret Allen ; "Social Condition of the Colony during De Beauharnois' Administration," Miss Welch ; "Capture of Louisburg, 1745," Mrs. McLaughlin ; "Wolfe," Miss McLaughlin ; "Montcalm and the Fall of Quebec," Miss Moffatt.

In addition to the regular meetings, a special meeting was held, devoted to early local history. Papers were read : (1st) "Early Settlement of Darlington and Bowmanville," Miss Andrew ; (2nd) "Establishment of Church of Scotland," Miss Fairbairn ; (3rd) "The Hagarty and Cubitt Family and Associates," Miss Hilda Reid ; (4th) "Establishment of Church of England," Miss Armour. A number of items were also given, and these, with the papers, have been preserved by the Secretary as the nucleus of a history of Darlington to be compiled by us at some future date.

At our annual meeting, which was held on March 30th, a number of visitors were present. While our membership is small, it has not been our desire to greatly extend it, as we believe the interest to be more concentrated in house-to-house meetings.

CANADIAN METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Officers.

President	Rev. Chancellor Burwash.
Vice-Presidents	C. C. James. Rev. S. Carman. Rev. Geo. Webber. Rev. Dr. Withrow. James Lawson.
Ex-Officio	The President of the Conferences having branches.
Curator	Rev. Prof. McLaughlin.
Secretary-Treasurer	Rev. E. A. Chown, B.D.

[The officers of this society feel that much good has resulted from the organization of this Church Society. They are exceedingly pleased to be affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society, and respectfully suggest that the formation of similar societies by other Churches would be productive of benefit—not only to the Churches themselves, but also to the general cause of historical research.]

This Society was organized in 1900, and was affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society, April, 1903.

Its object is to encourage the study of the history of the Methodist Church in Canada, the rise and progress of religious and educational movements in this country, to preserve the official records of the various conferences, and to gather as complete a set as possible of books, pamphlets, and documents that may be of service to writers on the history of the various churches of Canada. An annual meeting is held every fall, in October or November, at Victoria College, Toronto, when a lecture, specially prepared for the occasion, is delivered. On November 20th, 1902, Chancellor Burwash read a very interesting paper on "Egerton Ryerson"—a subject that is to form one of the series now in preparation to be published in the near future by Morang & Co.

Branches have so far been established in connection with two conferences—viz.: "The Bay of Quinte" and "The Hamilton," and arrangements have been completed for historical meetings at the sessions about to be held. Branches will be formed in connection with the other conferences.

The Executive Committee is assisted by twenty Corresponding Members, who are located in all parts of British North America, from St. John's, Newfoundland, to New Westminster, B.C.

Several active members of the Ontario Historical Society are members of this Society also.

Perhaps the most successful work undertaken is the collection of books and pamphlets, which are deposited in the Library of Victoria College, the librarian of the College, Professor McLaughlin, being the Curator of the Society. During the past year 310 volumes came to the Society by donation, and 40 by purchase—350 in all. Among the most valuable may be mentioned a bound set of *The Christian Guardian* for the years 1840-70, returned to this country by a minister now resident in Illinois.

The General Conference of the Methodist Church, in 1902, directed that all Journals and other official records no longer in continuous use be committed to this Society for permanent keeping.

ANNUAL MEETING AT ST. THOMAS.

ST. THOMAS, June 3rd, 1903.

The Annual Meeting of the Society was opened in the Court House of this city to-day at 2 p.m., President C. C. James in the chair. Besides representatives from Toronto there were present Mrs. C. Fessenden, Hamilton; Miss Margaret F. Allen, Bowmanville; Mrs. E. F. Chandler, Mrs. G. H. Wilson, Miss Priddis, Mrs. H. Wilson, Mrs. St. Thomas Smith, Mrs. J. J. C. Findlay, Miss Traverse, Miss Silcox, Miss C. F. Wegg, Mrs. S. Burns, and His Honor C. O. Ermatinger, of St. Thomas; His Honor Judge R. S. Woods, and His Honor Judge James Robb, Simcoe; Mr. George R. Pattullo, Woodstock: Mr. Justus Griffin, Hamilton; Dr. Campbell and Mr. James Egan, London; Mr. H. H. Robertson, Hamilton; Mr. Thomas Conant, Oshawa; Mr. C. W. Werner, Mr. Robert I. Werner, St. Thomas; and Col. E. B. Edwards, Peterboro'.

After the reading and the adoption of the minutes of the last annual meeting the Secretary read a communication from Miss M. A. FitzGibbon, asking that the sum of $300, being a surplus from the Historical Exhibition, and now in the custody of the Ontario Historical Society, be handed over to a committee of ladies to be placed in the fund for a Queen Victoria memorial. On motion of Mr. Pattullo, seconded by Judge Turnbull, the matter was referred to the Council of the Ontario Historical Society.

The desirability of preserving intact the sites of Forts George and Mississagua and the Military Reserve at Niagara having been introduced by Miss Carnochan, it was moved by His Honor C. O. Ermatinger, seconded by Mr. Pattullo, that the consideration of the question be referred to a committee consisting of Miss Carnochan, Lieut.-Col. Cruikshank, Mr. James Wilson, Superintendent Niagara Falls Park, the President and the Secretary, with power to petition the Government, or take such other action as they see fit. Carried.

The Secretary read the reports of the various affiliated societies, a few of which did not intimate that the local organizations were in as flourishing a condition as could be wished. On the whole, however, the tone was a hopeful one, and manifested considerable interest in historical matters.

The President having reported the completion of the Simcoe Monument, and the Secretary having read a copy of the address presented to the Hon. Richard Harcourt at the unveiling, it was moved by Mr. James H. Coyne, seconded by His Honor Judge Robb, that the report of the

Simcoe Monument be received and adopted, that this Society desires to express its satisfaction with the work of the committee, and that the hearty thanks of the Society are hereby tendered to the chairman and members of the committee for their valuable services, also that the Secretary be requested to convey the thanks of the Society to the Rev. C. E. Thomson and Mr. B. E. Walker for special assistance in connection with the work of the committee. Carried.

The Secretary then read his Annual Report, and in the absence of Mr. Yeigh, Treasurer, also read his report, and that of the Simcoe Monument Fund. The Treasurer's report showed that the receipts amounted to $1,284, and that there was a balance on hand of $564.20, exclusive of the Historical Museum Fund of $300. The accounts were audited and found correct by Messrs. J. J. Murphy and W. A. MacLean. The Simcoe Monument Fund showed that $6,120.43 had been raised for the erection of a bronze statue.

It is worthy of notice that the only responses to a circular sent out by the committee to the schools of the province through the inspectors came from the Frontenac County Schools with $11.14, and two public schools in the town of Galt which contributed $4.57.

At this point the President appointed a Nominating Committee, consisting of Mr. James H. Coyne, Lieut.-Col. Cruikshank, Miss Carnochan, His Honor Judge, Robb and Mr. H. H. Robertson, to name the officers for the following year, and to report on Friday morning.

The Report of the Flag Committee, by Mrs. Fessenden, was then read and referred to the Council.

Mr. Justus Griffin spoke of a letter he had recently read. This letter was written by Lord Selkirk respecting a colony his lordship intended to form on the shore of Lake Huron. Mr. Griffin wanted some particulars as to how this project had succeeded. Replies to this query were received from Mr. President James, Judge Ermatinger, Mr. Coyne, and the Secretary. Mr. James thought that about the only relic that was left of the colony, survived in the name of Selkirk Post Office in the county of Norfolk, Ontario. Judge Ermatinger referred to certain statements respecting this colony in the Michigan State papers.

Mr. Thomas Conant intimated that he had recently seen a map on which the Indian cessions of land between the County of York and the eastern portion of the province were marked. The President and Secretary both explained that no treaties or records relating to purchases are known to exist with regard to the territory east of what is known as "The Toronto Purchase."

In accordance with notice given at a former meeting Mrs. E. J.

Thompson, seconded by Miss Carnochan, moved that all retiring presidents be *ex-officio* members of the Council. Carried.

The President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Mr. G. R. Pattullo were appointed a Finance Committee. It being nearly five o'clock the meeting adjourned to accept an invitation by the City Council to take a ride through the streets of St. Thomas, special cars being provided for the purpose.

The general public meeting was held in the Court House, beginning at eight p.m. President in the chair. The President's address was well received,* and after this an excellent paper* was read by His Honor Judge Ermatinger, in which, while welcoming the Provincial Society to St. Thomas, His Honor gave a concise *résumé* of many circumstances connected with the Talbot settlement, among other things directing attention to Dr. John Rolph, slavery, and land grabbing. At the close of the meeting it was announced that carriages would be ready to leave the city at 9.30 the following morning to convey members and friends to the old fort in Southwold and thence to Port Talbot.

ST. THOMAS, June 4th, 1903.

Shortly after the appointed hour about thirty vehicles left the Court House ground in St. Thomas for the old fort and Port Talbot. After examining the celebrated earthwork for an hour or so, lunch was served by the lady members of the Elgin Historical Society and Scientific Institute. The repast was extremely bountiful and was enjoyed by all present.

On resuming business Mr. H. F. Gardiner delivered an extremely valuable address on "The Origin of Canadian Place Names," showing the possibility of tracing the history of the country to some extent by the name-groups in various parts of the province.†

The President gave a brief address and the Secretary was requested to state what was known historically and archeologically in connection with the extensive double enbankment within which the party was assembled. Photographs of the group were then taken.

On motion of Judge Ermatinger, it was resolved that the Council of the Ontario Historical Society be authorized to represent to the County of Elgin the desirability of taking some steps to preserve the Southwold earthwork, unique as it is in the Province of Ontario.

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*Printed elsewhere in full in this Report.

†It is intended to print this Paper in Vol. 6, Papers and Records.

About two o'clock the party set out for Port Talbot, a distance of some four miles to the south-west, in the Township of Dunwich. Here the meeting having been called to order by the President on the lawn in front of the old Talbot residence, Mr. Joseph Smith was called upon to read the first paper on "Some Odd Characters in Wentworth County." His account of some of the idiosyncrasies of those personages was characteristic of the simplicity of life in the early days of Wentworth settlement. Mr. Coyne read a paper on "The Celebrated Persons Who Visited the Estate of Port Talbot and Mansion During the Life of Colonel Talbot." The readers of both papers were heartily thanked, by motion, in the usual way.

The Nominating Committee then presented the following list of names as those of the officers for 1903-4: President, C. C. James, M.A.; 1st Vice-President, George R. Pattullo; 2nd Vice-President, Talbot Macbeth, K.C.; Treasurer, Frank Yeigh; Councillors, Mrs. E. J. Thompson, Lieut.-Col. E. B. Edwards, Alfred Willson, C.E., H. B. Donly, and H. H. Robertson, B.A.

Resolutions of thanks were tendered to the City Council of St. Thomas, the Council of the County of Elgin, the Women's Auxiliary of the Elgin Historical Society and Scientific Institute, the Institute itself, and the press of the City of St. Thomas for the various courtesies extended by them to the Ontario Historical Society in connection with the meeting.

MEETING OF COUNCIL.

PORT TALBOT, June 4th, 1903.

At the close of the Annual Meeting a meeting of the Council was held, when there were present the President, C. C. James, the Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. E. J. Thompson, Mr. Talbot Macbeth, Mr. J. H. Coyne, Mr. Alfred Willson, and Lieut.-Col. E. B. Edwards.

On motion of Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Coyne, Rev. A. E. Jones was elected a corresponding member of the Society.

It was moved by the Secretary, seconded by Dr. Campbell, of London, that copies of all the Society's publications be supplied to the local societies (one to each society) from the date of affiliation with this Society. Carried.

MEETING OF ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT TORONTO.

Joint meetings of the Society and the Educational Association of Ontario were held on April 5th and 7th in the main building of the University of Toronto.

On the latter date all the papers read were by members of this Society, viz.: "The Scope of the Ontario Archives Office," by Alexander Fraser, M.A., Provincial Archivist; "Upper Canada Academy, 1836-41," by C. C. James, M.A., Deputy Minister of Agriculture; and "Our First Novelist—Major Richardson," by A. C. Casselman, Esq.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1903.

Since last annual gathering of the Ontario Historical Society, a meeting of the Council was held on April 15th.

On this occasion there were present, besides the President and Secretary, Mrs. E. J. Thompson, Judge Ardagh, and Messrs. Alfred Willson, I. E. Weldon, and Rev. C. E. Thomson.

Ten new members were accepted.

Rev. Dr. Withrow was authorized to represent the Ontario Historical Society at the next meeting of the Royal Society of Canada.

A committee was appointed to revise the membership list with a view to removing the names of those two or more years in arrears.

The Secretary was instructed to send a letter of condolence to the family of the late T. W. Casey respecting his death.

Miss M. A. FitzGibbon was present to explain her project for uniting the various Women's Historical Societies.

The County of Northumberland Historical Society, the Canadian Methodist Historical Society of Toronto, and the Head of the Lake Branch of the U.E.L. Association in Hamilton, were affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society.

At this meeting also the invitation of the people of St. Thomas to hold our annual meeting in their city was accepted. Five regular meetings of the Simcoe Monument Committee and several emergency conferences were held during the year, and the committee's labors came to an end when the Allward bronze statue of Upper Canada's first Governor was unveiled in Queen's Park on Wednesday, May 27th, and handed over to the Government.

Our membership amounts to two hundred and fifty-one, of whom ladies number thirty. There are resident in Toronto eighty-four; elsewhere in the Province one hundred and sixty-seven. Those who have paid for 1902-3 number one hundred and forty-eight, and those paid for 1903-4 number twelve.

Our exchange list is quite an extensive one, and our library, which is mainly formed from exchanges, grows steadily. It now contains many valuable books, as well as society publications in paper. If the latter were in bound form they would number into the hundreds of volumes.

More case room is necessary.

DAVID BOYLE, *Secretary.*

REPORT OF THE FLAG COMMITTEE.

As noticed in the last annual report, we had the promise of the Minister of Education that some suggested inquiries be made in the Journal of Education relating to flags, such as: What schools possessed these flags? When hoisted? What preference was given to the present denotative emblem? Noting that these questions had not been asked, we, on enquiry, found that the matter had been entirely overlooked, owing to the illness and absence from duty of the Deputy Minister. A strong assurance was, however, given that this matter would be attended to before another report was issued. The tendency to the further disfigurement of our Canadian flag by the addition of the "arms" of additional provinces to the original and only authorized device on the ensign, is greatly to be deplored. We would also call attention to British vessels entering foreign or Canadian ports, that they obey the law as to displaying the flag when entering therein.

CLEMENTINA FESSENDEN.

TREASURER'S REPORT, JUNE 1ST, 1902, TO MAY 31ST, 1903.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand, June 1st, 1902	$613 37
Government grant for 1903	600 00
Membership fees and sale of books	69 50
Laura Secord Tablet Fund	1 15
	$1284 02

EXPENDITURES.

Secretary's Salary	$100 00
Annual Report, two years, (1901 and 1902)	131 00
Balance of Galinée volume (making its total cost $447.24)	235 94
Other printing and stationery	42 33
Postage and express	62 75
Extra copies of *Queen's Quarterly* containing historical papers	30 00
Press-clipping Bureau	7 50
Disbursements of officers	32 15
Book case for Society's Library and Records	45 00
Extra office assistance	19 50
Expenses of April, 1903, meeting in Normal School	13 65
Balance on hand	564 20
	$1284 02

FRANK YEIGH, *Treasurer, O. H. S.*

Audited and found correct.

J. J. MURPHY,
W. A. MCLEAN.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM FUND.

Balance on hand, June 1st, 1902	$300 15
Interest	9 06
	$309 21

STATEMENT OF SIMCOE MONUMENT FUND OF THE O. H. S.

Receipts and Subscriptions.

Ontario Government paid	$3000 00
Additional vote, Session of 1903	500 00
City of Toronto	1000 00
Fourteen subscriptions of $100.00 each, per Mr. B. E. Walker	1400 00
Ontario Historical Society	50 00
Frontenac County Public Schols	11 14
Two Galt Public Schools	4 57
Mr. J. E. Klotz, Mayor of Preston (1902)	6 00
Interest	48 72
	$6,020 43

Expenditures and Contracts.

Walter S. Allward, sculptor, contract for statue	$4,000 00
The McIntosh Marble and Granite Company contract for pedestal	1,400 00
Walter S. Allward, designing pedestal and superintending erection of same, with incidental expenses such as insurance, freight, etc	508 83
Express and freight for models submitted	93 10
Postage and printing	8 50
Legal agreement with sculptor	10 00
	$6,120 43

On May 27th, 1903, the Simcoe Monument was unveiled in Queen's Park in the presence of His Excellency the Earl of Minto, His Honor Wm. Mortimer Clark, The Mayor of the City of Toronto, and fully one thousand others.

The final meeting of the Simcoe Monument Committee was held in the room of Mr. B. E. Walker, at the head office of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, at 4.45 p.m. Present: the Chairman, Rev. C. E. Thomson, Rev. W. W. Colpitts, Mr. Wm. Rennie, Mr. B. E. Walker and the Secretary. Mr. W. S. Allward, the sculptor, was also present. In the absence of the Treasurer the Secretary read the statement of receipts and expenditure as above.

MEETING OF COUNCIL.

April 7th, 1904.

The Council met in the Secretary's Office, Education Department, at 11 a.m. to-day. Present—C. C. James, M.A., Lady Edgar, Miss Carnochan, Mrs. J. H. Thompson, Messrs. J. H. Coyne, G. R. Pattullo, and Frank Yeigh, Secretary.

It was decided to hold the next Annual Meeting in Windsor, as per invitation from Mr. F. Cleary, President of the Essex and Windsor Historical Society.

Messrs. W. G. MacFarlane and the Rev. Frank Leigh, of Burford, were elected members for the year in recognition of gifts of books made by them to the Society.

Lady Edgar requested the consideration of the Society with respect to the handing over to the Women's Historical Society of the sum of $300, now held in trust by the Ontario Historical Society as a balance from the holding of the Historical Exhibition. Lady Edgar, as President of the Women's Historical Society of Toronto was assured that the money was in the bank as a special account drawing interest, and that when something definite was known with respect to the contemplated building to be erected by the Women's Canadian Historical Society, due consideration would be given to the payment of the money in question.

In connection with a matter brought up by Miss Carnochan it was moved by Mr. J. H. Coyne, seconded by Mr. G. R. Pattullo, that the sum of $50 be granted to the Niagara Historical Society towards its Memorial Hall in Niagara, upon the understanding that this covers all obligations of the Ontario Historical Society in respect to a vote said to have been made in or about the year 1897 by the Pioneer and Historical Association of the Province of Ontario, but of which no record appears on the minutes. (This was previous to the reorganization of the Ontario Historical Society.)

Miss Carnochan also pointed out to the Council that she received no reply from the Ottawa authorities respecting the memorial to the Militia Department regarding the preservation of Navy Hall.

There being some doubt regarding the status of the Niagara Historical Society it was moved by Mr. Coyne, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that in the opinion of this Council, the Niagara Historical Society was in 1896 affiliated with the Historical Association of the Province of Ontario and under the statute in that behalf has been, and is, affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society; but for the avoidance of doubts, and in accordance with its application, the Niagara Historical Society be and is now affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society.

The meeting then adjourned.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY JUDGE C. O. ERMATINGER.

Mr. President and the Members of the Ontario Historical Society—

Your Society meets for the first time in the centre of what was long known as the Talbot Country—a country not wanting in interest to the antiquarian and the historian.

To-morrow, if the weather be propitious, you will have an opportunity of visiting and inspecting the spot where the remains of an ancient entrenchment or fortified village of the aboriginal inhabitants still exist, after the lapse of centuries, in a form, it is said, as well if not better preserved than any found elsewhere on this Dominion.

You will then, at a distance of only some three miles thence, be able to visit and personally inspect the spot where the founder of this prosperous settlement began his work of introducing what we call civilization, in this region, by felling the first tree and establishing his home at Port Talbot.

Just four years ago I had the honour of calling the attention of the members of our Institute and the public to the then approaching centennial anniversary of that event, and without further trespassing on your time by detailing what is already set forth, I believe in our formal report to your Society, I may say the inhabitants of the district have recently participated, with many brothers and sisters from abroad, in a five-day celebration, commencing on the anniversary day, 21st May, with a unanimity, a liberality, and a success extremely gratifying to all our people, and especially so to the members of our Institute who suggested it, and to which it is hoped your meeting here will form a fitting climax.

I may say that the 21st May was, from 1817 to 1838, or thereabouts, marked by a festival held here, except for the last two years, when it was held in London, under the name of the Talbot Anniversary, as a personal tribute to Colonel Talbot by the settlers, while our recent Centennial Celebration was held in honor of all the Pioneers—the Colonel included—who not only laid the foundation but built up the fabric of this prosperous and happy settlement.

And it is a somewhat interesting historical fact that he to whom the inception of the Talbot Anniversary festivals was due, was Dr. John Rolph, at the time living within a mile of St. Thomas. He was a friend and professedly ardent admirer of Colonel Talbot, and at the time the last of the festivals was held, was an exile through his advanced political course, on account of which he and the Colonel were, politically, as wide as the poles asunder. The one prominent man who, on the other hand, opposed the inauguration of the Talbot Anniversary at that time (1817)

was Colonel Burwell, who, nevertheless, continued to enjoy Colonel Talbot's friendship and political support, I believe, to the last; showing, as it seems to me, that Colonel Talbot was capable of magnanimity of feeling and judgment, uninfluenced by petty considerations.

Colonel Talbot's life-work and the anniversary festivals practically closed about the same time, for he informed Mrs. Jameson in 1838, that he had accomplished what he had set out to do. Though he lived until 1853, the intervening years were the period of his decline. He was a product of the Georgian era, and his power as the uncrowned king of these regions may be said to have expired with the last of those kings whose confidence he enjoyed and under whom he flourished.

The reign of the young Queen, who then ascended the throne, was almost co-terminous with our settlement's century. In it, material, political and educational advancement, not possible under former conditions, has been made, and nowhere is Victoria the Good held in deeper reverence than in the Talbot settlement.

I may add that it was the hope of our Institute to have unveiled, on the 21st of May last, on the Court House Square in this city, a fitting memorial of Her Gracious Majesty, which would, by appropriate embellishments and inscriptions, have also suitably commemorated the settlement and its pioneers and history. Owing to circumstances beyond the Institute's control, which I need not detail, this was impossible of accomplishment, though I hope that some suitable memorial of Her Majesty may yet adorn this city. Meantime a local historical memorial, intended to be as permanent, if in ruder form, has been erected at Pinafore Park, in the shape of a cairn of stones, each representing and having engraved upon it the name of one of the original twenty-nine townships comprised within the Talbot settlement—within which, when put in permanent condition, will be deposited documents relating to the present Centenary.

At the risk of being considered heterodox, I venture the opinion that the historian should not stop short at the collection of dry facts, the preservation of musty documents, and the planting of memorials of the past. It seems to me that he misses the higher part of his vocation if he fail to place the facts in their true setting of surrounding details and conditions, at least so as to insure that the lamp of knowledge he lights may enable those who may go forward into the future, to pursue a right path and avoid the obstructions and pitfalls of the past.

Judging Colonel Talbot, for instance, by present day standards, it is easy to depict him as a monster of cruelty, oppression, rapacity and intemperance—as indeed it seems rather the fashion now to paint him

Placed in the light and shade, and amid the environments of the days in which he lived, probably he would present a different figure and moral aspect to his critics.

Slavery was made illegal by the first Parliament of the province, which he attended in the suite of the first Governor, yet was not immediately completely abolished. Duelling continued to be regarded as a necessary mode of settling certain classes of disputes for many years after, while gambling and intemperance were almost necessary social accomplishments. Land grabbing was general, and whole townships were granted to individuals who made no sacrifice either of money or effort to promote settlement to the extent that Colonel Talbot did. Indeed, colonization schemes for the enrichment of speculators rather than the benefit of the colonists, have not been unknown even in our own day. Responsible government was imperfectly understood in the mother land, and much less in the colonies.

I mention these things, not as an apologist for Colonel Talbot, or defender of his methods or habits, but simply to show the necessity for surrounding historical characters with the atmosphere and environments in which they lived.

We may boast of our material advancement, of our progress in education, art and science, but are we more loyal, true, moral and God-fearing than were the early pioneers, with their fine large families of, for the most part, dutiful sons and daughters? Are we better men and women than they—individually, socially and politically purer and less corrupt?

It may be the historian has no business to suggest, much less to attempt to answer, such questions; yet, if he does his duty in presenting the Past to the gaze of the Future, the questions will suggest themselves; and upon the answer we are able to truthfully give to them depends the verdict whether we have made use of our superior advantages and opportunities to fulfil what it was intended we should be and do, when we were placed in this favored region of the world. And, if we find we have failed as yet, then let us make resolve to put the new century to better use.

Lest I should be accused of preaching when I should speak words of compliment, let me close by complimenting you upon the good work being done by the Ontario Society, and the valuable collection and publications being made, in which your efficient Secretary is especially interested, I believe. The recent published work of our and your past President, Mr. Coyne, we are glad to know, forms a valuable addition to the literature of the Society.

I hope, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, the present meeting may prove a pleasant as well as profitable one to us all.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY MRS. A. A. WILSON, PRESIDENT WOMEN'S AUXILIARY.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen—

The Women's Auxiliary of the Elgin Historical and Scientific Institute desires me to welcome the guests on their behalf. I must first impress upon you the fact that we are *very young.* There may be nothing in our name or our appearance to indicate such extreme youth, but we are really only about twenty-seven months old, so that little more should be expected of us in the way of greeting than the glad hand of welcome.

During the first year of our existence we crept from house to house, or up two flights of stairs to the museum, to meet and read and talk of the days of our forefathers. But in our second year we succeeded in getting three suitable and conveniently-located rooms, in which to hold meetings and do a little entertaining.

On entering our third year we have toddled along with our seniors through a centennial celebration, and it may be assumed that our part was successfully performed, for we handed over a small surplus, and have been graciously referred to as " the better half." Numerically speaking I think our 107 members takes us near the three-quarter mark. We do not, however, find it necessary to remind the ancient society of our strength, for our leading strings are light and (as in all well constituted domestic establishments) both parties think they have their own way, and are ready to unite in the common aim, the rousing of an interest in the history and welfare of our country. We hope to gain knowledge and encouragement from your honoring us with your presence, and I feel assured I am voicing the sentiment of every member of the Auxiliary in expressing our heartiest welcome on your advent to our historic county.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

By C. C. James.

It has become the established practice of the Ontario Historical Society to hold two meetings every year, one in Toronto, and the other in some other town or city. During the past two years we have held our Toronto meeting in conjunction with the Historical Section of the Ontario Educational Association; the other meeting, our annual meeting and the more important of the two, we hold in the first week of June, as determined by our Statute of Incorporation. In fixing the place of our annual meeting we are guided by three considerations: first, the desire to go where we may help to quicken interest in Canadian, but especially Ontario, historical study and research; secondly, the desire to visit such places as may add to our own historical knowledge; thirdly, in response to invitations. We are here in St. Thomas because you have most cordially invited us, because we desire to participate in the historical reminiscences and pilgrimages you are so appropriately indulging in, and we venture to hope that our coming here will assist in making your centennial year productive of real lasting value from the standpoint of sound historical study.

As a Society we congratulate the people of the County of Elgin on their enterprise and the thorough manner in which they have honored the memory of their forefathers who, amid privations and difficulties, began the settlement of this prosperous community. At the same time it is only fair to state that we have come largely as a compliment to the worthy citizen of St. Thomas, Mr. James H. Coyne, who was instrumental in putting our Society on its present working basis, and who for five years was our honored President. It is a pleasure to us to know that the man who holds so high a reputation among our members and among all Canadian historical workers, is honored and respected at home—that he is a prophet with honor in his own country.

Having told you why we have come to St. Thomas, it is proper that as President of this Society I should tell you what our Society has done during the past year. Our Society is dependent for its support largely upon the Provincial Government grant of $600 per year. Supplementing this we have our annual membership fees of $1.00 each. You will see, therefore, that our work is not based upon a wealthy foundation, but that we are working mainly through the good-will and generous interest of our members and supporters.

We prepared and printed a report of our business procedure, which contained a full list of the local Societies that are in affiliation with us. It is our custom every year to put forth in addition to our Report at least one volume which we call "Papers and Records." The volume last year was No. IV. of the series, and it is of especial interest to you to know that the author was an ex-president, Mr. J. H. Coyne. The subject of the publication was the English translation of the Journal of Galinée, the first authentic account of exploration in south-western Ontario. It was fitting and appropriate that the Ontario Historical Society should be the publisher of this very valuable and very interesting Journal dealing with our own Province. This Journal may be said to be the beginning of the history of this part of Canada. I do not propose to give you a *résumé* of that record—every student of Canadian history should begin his or her course of historical study with a reading of this work—and I simply suggest to you that you may have the opportunity of doing so by associating yourself with this Ontario Historical Society.

Our Society aims to publish only original material, and we desire to put into permanent form, available for students, historical sketches dealing with all parts of Ontario. In our publications, so far, we have given our members papers dealing with the Bay of Quinte, the Niagara district, the Longue Pointe section, Penetanguishene, and we hope some day to see published, either through our Provincial Association or through your vigorous Elgin County Historical Society, a collection of papers and records dealing with the early days of the Talbot settlement. There has been an opinion among our people that the history of Ontario is uninteresting, unromantic, devoid of those stirring events that make the histories of European countries attractive. Far away fields look green, and foreign countries seem to be more interesting than our own. Had we a Sir Walter Scott I venture to believe that he would have revelled in the stories of Thomas Talbot, Tiger Dunlop, John Galt, The Laird of McNab, Bishop Macdonell, John Johnson of the "Soo," Joseph Brant, Tecumseh, and a score of others. Have we no romance in the making of this Province? Why, the early settlements of old Upper Canada were saturated with romance, and it is the duty and the privilege of our local Societies to gather together and carefully preserve the records of the early days. What to-day seems trivial or commonplace will, in a half century, be cherished as of intrinsic value. Here and there, week by week, the veterans are dropping out of the ranks, and if we do not carefully collect these records now, they will be gone forever. Despise not the narrator or recorder of small affairs; they seem small to us because they are so close to us. Paradoxical as it may appear, these

things will grow in size and importance as we go further from them. There is nothing to be ashamed of in the early settlement of this Province.

The other important undertaking of this Society reached its happy completion when, on the 27th of May, just one week ago, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario unveiled, at our request, the statue of the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada. The magnificent bronze figure of Col. John Graves Simcoe stands in Queen's Park, Toronto, a fitting memorial to the man, the soldier, the loyal Britisher and the father of our Provincial Government. Before referring to the work of Simcoe, permit me to narrate one little event. Empire Day followed the unveiling by only two days. The children of the schools of Toronto brought their wreaths and garlands of flowers to deck the monuments of the Queen, the soldiers who fell at Ridgeway and in the North-West. The Simcoe monument brought a new hero into their lives, and so three schools laid their floral tributes about the new statue. The Louisa Street School of Toronto is the cosmopolitan school. It is the school of "The Ward," and there were no more interested children than those who brought a magnificent wreath of roses, bought with their own money, to do honor to our first Governor. Their teacher informed us that she had told them the story of Simcoe and his work. Such gifts and their attendant ceremonies play no inconspicuous part in making good Canadian citizens of the young foreigners who have found a home in our midst.

The monument to Simcoe was erected 107 years after he had sailed away from the little group of buildings at York. The lifelike inspiring figure that stands upon the massive granite pedestal is the work of Mr. Walter H. Allward, a Canadian citizen, and the successful carrying out of the undertaking was due to a committee of the Ontario Historical Society appointed three years ago.

I have thought that it would be appropriate on an occasion of this kind to make some reference to Simcoe and his work for Upper Canada. Born in Northamptonshire in 1752, he had acquired a good education at Exeter, Eton and Merton College, Oxford, and immediately entered the army. Our acquaintance with him begins in the Revolutionary War, when he was Colonel of a noted company known as The Queen's Rangers. He had come out from England as a junior officer in the 35th Regiment, and after a most interesting and honorable career, having risen step by step till he was Colonel of a regiment, he returned to England with many of his disbanded followers. In 1790 we find him a member of the British House of Commons, just before The Constitutional Act of 1791 came up for discussion and enactment. At the close of the

war Sir John Johnston's Regiment had settled in Upper Canada, the first Battalion on the St. Lawrence, and the second on the Bay of Quinte. Jessup's Loyal Rangers had settled beside them. Major Rogers' King's Rangers had been allotted land on the Bay of Quinte. Butler's Rangers and some of the Queen's Rangers had settled around Niagara and on the north shore of Lake Erie. With the officers of these bodies Simcoe had undoubtedly come in contact during the war, and his name was an appropriate one to suggest for that of the new Lieutenant-Governor. He knew America, he had passed through the same hardships as the majority of the settlers, he was in good standing with the leading officers now in Upper Canada, he took an active part in the framing of the Constitutional Act, and so, when, on the 26th of December, 1791, Upper Canada, by proclamation, became a separate Province, he seemed to be the man for the place.* Gathering about him a few of his old comrades, and calling on a few chosen men to assist him in his work, he reached Quebec in the fall of 1791. There he was compelled to wait for some months till the other members of his Executive Council should arrive. His first Proclamation was issued from Quebec in February, 1792. It referred to the method of settling the new lands of Upper Canada, and it is of peculiar interest to the people of Elgin County from the fact that it bore the signature of Thomas Talbot as Secretary.

By the middle of summer he saw the prospect of beginning his work, and with the nucleus of the first Government of Upper Canada he came up the St. Lawrence. The Scottish settlements of Glengarry and the Germans of Dundas gave him welcome as he passed by, here and there he stopped to renew friendships with such men as Captain Fraser and Major Jessup. At last old Fort Frontenac was reached, and in the old wooden church near the market place the Royal Commission was read on the 8th of July, 1792. William Osgoode, James Baby, Alexander Grant, and Peter Russell were sworn in as Executive Councillors. For eight days this little group looked over the maps of the province, studied the records of settlement and examined the military rolls, and on the 16th of July the Proclamation was ready, dividing the Province into nineteen counties and arranging the same into districts for the election of sixteen members of the first Legislative Assembly. It may be interesting just here to make a brief statement of the somewhat complex Government provided in 1792.

*Another tie connected him with Canada. His father, Capt. Simcoe, Commander of His Majesty's ship *Pembroke*, had lost his life at Quebec when Wolfe dealt the fatal blow at French domination in 1759.

First, there was the Governor-General of Canada, *i.e.*, of the two Canadas, Upper and Lower—Lord Dorchester, residing at Quebec.

Secondly, there was the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, appointed by the Crown—Col. John Graves Simcoe.

Thirdly, there were the Executive Councillors, also appointed at first by the Crown. These were the Cabinet Ministers, who under the Lieutenant-Governor supervised the different departments, such as the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, the Provincial Secretary, the Inspector-General, etc. These officials formed the general Court of Appeal of the Province.

Fourthly, there was the Legislative Council, composed of a small body of men chosen by the Governor and corresponding to our Senate, the little House of Lords, who held office for life by the will of the Crown's representative.

Fifthly, the Legislative Assembly, composed at first of sixteen persons chosen by the people

You will see by this statement that Representative Government began in this Province in a very limited form. Compare that, or rather, contrast that, with the present state of affairs, and you will see how the little power has become a great power, how gradually, through a hundred and eleven years, the prerogative of the Sovereign Ruler has passed over into the privilege of the Sovereign People.

In August the elections took place, and the little band of pioneer legislators met at the call of Simcoe in the little town of Newark, opposite old Fort Niagara, that still remained in British keeping.

It is worth noting here that Upper Canada started with equal rights. Among the Councillors was the Hon. James Baby, and among the Legislators was Francis Baby, two brothers, members of the old French-Canadian Roman Catholic family, then probably the most influential family at Detroit and Sandwich. From far East Glengarry came two brothers, John Macdonell and Hugh Macdonell, two Scottish Roman Catholics, who both achieved military fame. The former was selected as the first Speaker of the first Legislature of Upper Canada, and the latter became the first Adjutant-General of Militia for Upper Canada.

You will ask, where was Elgin County in those early days? I am compelled to say there was no such county. Beginning at the west, there were the counties Kent, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Lincoln. Suffolk has since disappeared, and Middlesex, Elgin, Brant, Perth, Haldimand, Welland and Wentworth have been formed as settlements increased. In the first division, what is now Elgin County formed part

of Suffolk and part of Norfolk; but I venture to remark that not a person then lived within what is now Elgin County who had the privilege of participating in the selection of a representative. This was 111 years ago, and you have just celebrated the centennial of the beginning of your settlement. It may be some consolation, however, to know that though you had no part in this beginning of things, your old friend Col. Talbot was thinking out schemes for your future discovery.

What do we owe to Simcoe? We have taken a hundred years to realize that he deserves a statue. That statue does not signify that we venerate him as a saint or as a legislative hero—it simply means that, with whatever human faults he may have had, we believe he did this country enough lasting good to make his name worthy of lasting remembrance. He had his faults, of course—he made mistakes because he was human—but he was shrewd enough to call to his counsels the best men of the time, and if he granted some of them patrimony enough to cause a stirring of the people in later days, we must not attribute all the ills resulting to his generosity. The people proved themselves later well able to right what they considered were abnormal privileges, and out of that struggle came the full share of representative government that we have to-day.

Simcoe made mistakes, as we now see them, in trying to start a moderate aristocracy in this province, and he was, perhaps, too autocratic in trying to fix the union of Church and State, but it is questionable whether any other Governor whom the King might have sent to this country at the time would not have followed the same line of action. He had big ideas along educational lines far in advance of his colleagues and the immediate needs of the country. He had great faith in the country's future, and laid his plans with the eye of a soldier. Kingston in the east, Chatham at the west, York in the centre, and Penetanguishene in the north, were to be naval and military headquarters. A new city, to become the capital of the country, was to spring up at the forks of the Thames, and it was to be called Georgina. Then he perfected the roads, Dundas Street running through the entire length from east to west, and Yonge Street to be the highway to the north. He more than projected them—he set his soldiers, the new Queen's Rangers, to cut out portions of these highways.

And what of the laws that were enacted? Time and space forbid a full discussion of this question, and we are met with this difficulty: we have such scanty records that it is impossible to state what part the Governor, the Councillors and the Legislators played in these enact-

ments—but those were the days when our judicial system was inaugurated, when municipal government was first recognized, when trial by jury was granted, and the citizens were made to realize that they had the rights of British citizenship. Perhaps it is fitting to state that through all his Canadian career Simcoe carried himself as a true Briton; all his acts and all his plans had in view the strengthening of British rule in this country, and had he had his way he would have made a bold and defiant stand for the reasserting of British supremacy beyond the lakes and down the Mississippi Valley.

In 1796 he prepared to move the Legislative headquarters to York, and then he sailed away to take up his new command at San Domingo. He returned to England and was appointed to the command in India, but before leaving he was ordered to Portugal. In 1806 sickness overtook him, and he returned to England, where he died on the 26th of October, and was buried in Exeter Cathedral. One word more about the man—he had been fortunate in his choice of wife. Mrs. Simcoe proved herself a fitting companion to him when in Upper Canada, and among the choice reminders of those early days are many interesting sketches of the early settlements and her journals, of which only fragments have so far been given to the public.

We do well to honor the men who have served this country; but we must not forget the humble pioneers. The common people are the salvation of any country—the common people of this country are worthy of remembrance, and it is the duty of the local Historical Societies of this Province to preserve with infinite care every detail of record that is available, for this will be the material out of which the true history of Ontario must some day be written.

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